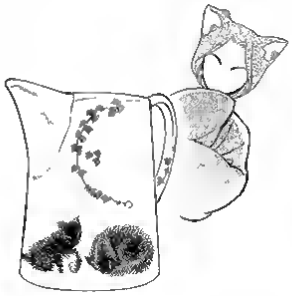
- Congratulatory words -

Dressing up a woman is truly delightful! (Emphasis)

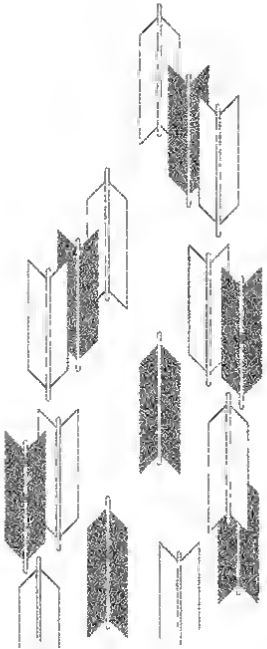


Pitcher Cats

Several black cats from the warehouse at Amber Hall doused her with water

It seems like this marriage present... given to Midori by Shirogane, was something made overseas.

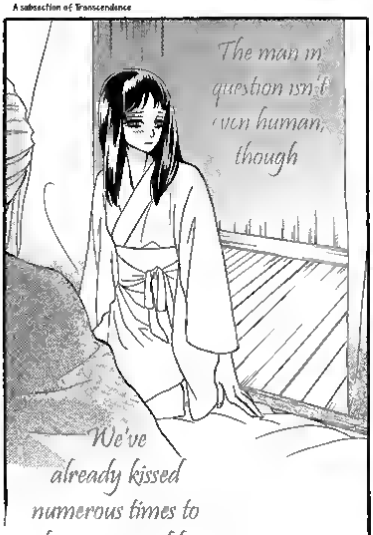
If they had taken on a human form instead it would've been great in a slightly different sense



- Third Night -
Marriage
Consummation

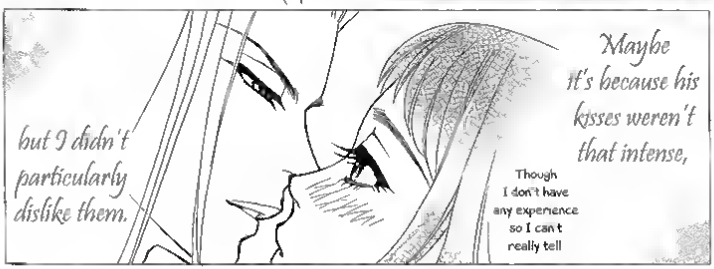
Décadence
A subsection of Transcendence

This Tsukumogami...
is going to be my husband.


The man in question isn't even human, though
We've already kissed numerous times to cleanse some of his impurities.

Because I can see things ordinary people can't
I've always kept my distance from others
The thought that, one day, I would entrust my body to a man
only barely crossed my mind

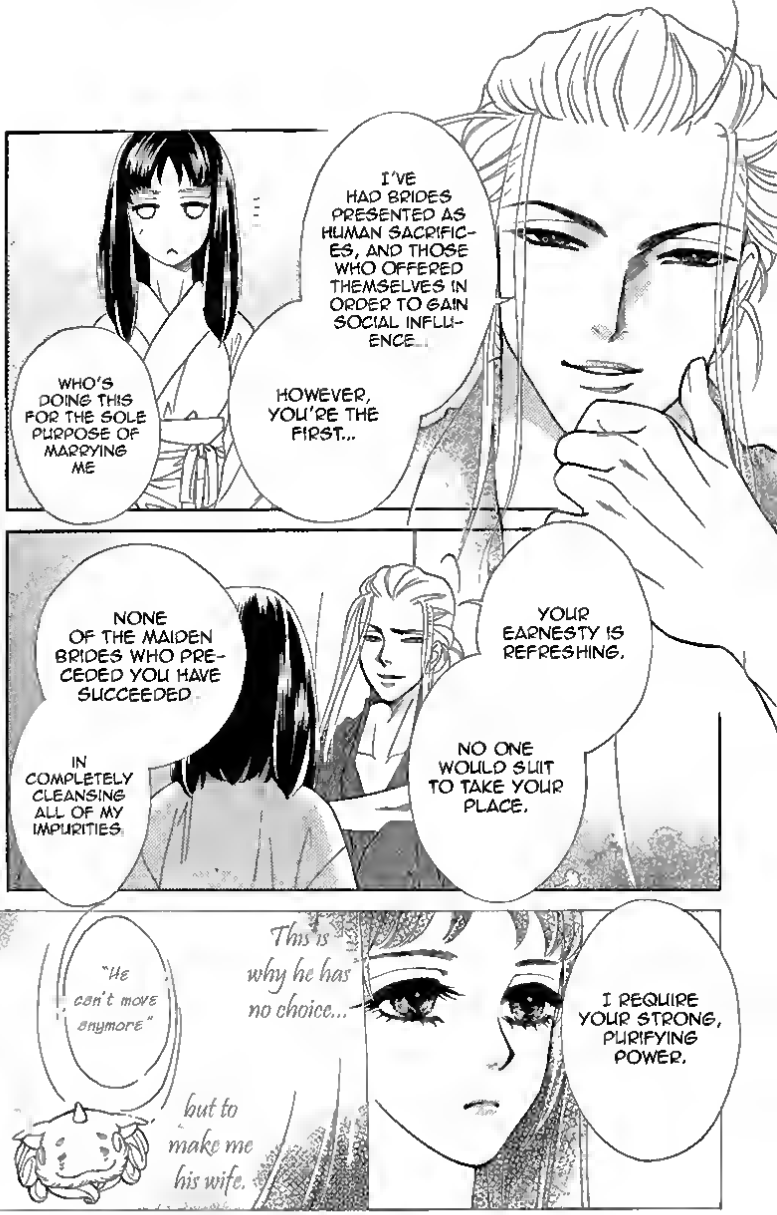
Thanks to that, I feel like I've been able to mentally prepare myself for his touch


but I didn't particularly dislike them.
Maybe it's because his kisses weren't that intense,
Though I don't have any experience so I can't really tell

Shift
On the contrary...
YOU HAVE QUITE THE DETER-MINED LOOK ON YOUR FACE.

THE MAJORITY OF WOMEN WHO MARRIED ME WAS MOTIVATED BY EITHER THEIR FAMILY OR VILLAGE.
YOU, TOO, ARE OFFERING YOUR BODY FOR KOHAKUDOU'S SAKE.
HOWEVER, THERE WERE ALSO THOSE WHO RAN AWAY AT THE VERY LAST MOMENT.
THIS SAME DETERMINATION WAS WRITTEN IN THEIR EYES.
I'M NOT GOING TO RUN
OF COURSE, I CAN'T SAY I HAVE NO DOUBTS.
HOWEVER, I WOULD NEVER LEAVE AND CAUSE TROUBLE FOR KOHAKUDOU-SAN.
BESIDES, IF I REFUSE TO DO THIS, SOMEONE ELSE WILL HAVE TO REPLACE ME.
Akari, for example...
"Oh, is that your sister? She's beautiful"

I'M HERE BECAUSE I WANT TO GIVE THIS MARRIAGE A CHANCE.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, PUTTING ASIDE HOW ALL THIS CAME TO BE...
I'M NOT HERE BECAUSE I HAD NO OTHER CHOICE,
OR BECAUSE I'M TRYING TO SAVE SOME-ONE ELSE
I'M NOT THINKING OF RUNNING AWAY
SO...


I'VE HAD BRIDES PRESENTED AS HUMAN SACRIFICES, AND THOSE WHO OFFERED THEMSELVES IN ORDER TO GAIN SOCIAL INFLUENCE...
HOWEVER, YOU'RE THE FIRST...
WHO'S DOING THIS FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF MARRYING ME
YOUR EARNESTY IS REFRESHING.
NO ONE WOULD SUIT TO TAKE YOUR PLACE.
NONE OF THE MAIDEN BRIDES WHO PRECEDED YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED IN COMPLETELY CLEANSING ALL OF MY IMPURITIES.
I REQUIRE YOUR STRONG, PURIFYING POWER.
This is why he has no choice...
"He can't move anymore"
but to make me his wife.

SO FAR, THIS POWER HAS BROUGHT ME NOTHING BUT HARD-SHIPS,
BUT I'D BE HAPPY TO USE IT IF IT MEANS I CAN BE OF HELP TO SOME-ONE.
THAT'S WHY I HOPE WE'LL GET ALONG WELL.
He's left with no other options... I guess that makes two of us
"He's tired He's going to dis-appear"
"He's going to dis-appear"
EVEN THOUGH I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO MAKE SENSE OF THIS POWER OF MINE SO FAR,
I UNDER-STAND IT MIGHT BE THE REASON WHY I'M ABLE TO SEE THOSE OTHERWORLDLY CREATURES
THIS ABILITY IS WHAT CAUSED ME TO REMAIN A VIRGIN UNTIL NOW, ALBEIT UNINTEN-TIONALLY.
THAT, TOO, MIGHT BE 'THE GODS' WILL' OF SOME SORT.
Not that I ever saw my virginity as something im-portant

Décadence
A subsection of Transcendence

IN MY EYES,
THEY ARE TREASURES
YOUR POWER,
AS WELL AS YOUR CHASTITY
I'm no beauty like Aki...
I don't believe I'm at the bottom of the heap though
Will he really be satisfied with me?
That may be so, but preferences are an entirely different matter

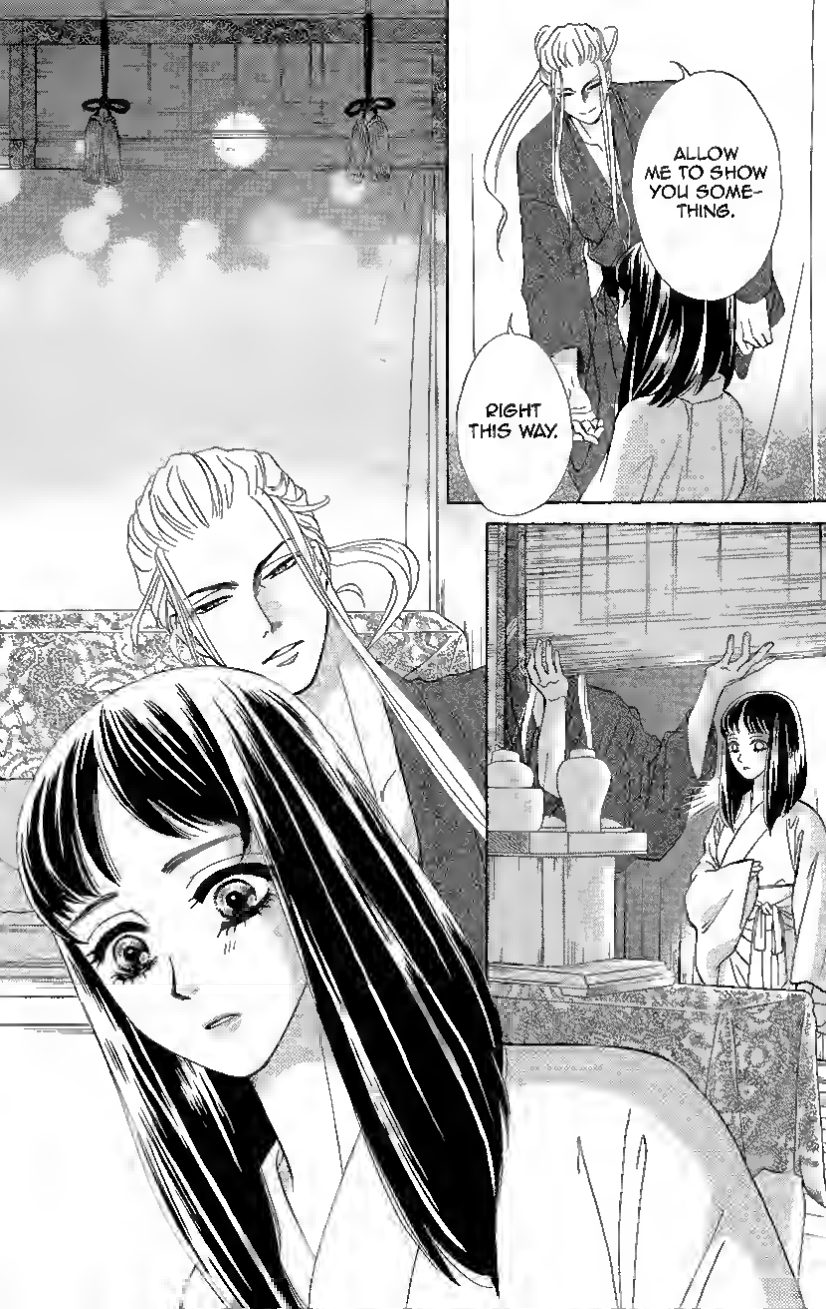
AFTER TONIGHT, I WON'T BE A VIRGIN ANYMORE, RIGHT?
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY ABILITY TO PURIFY YOU?
AH.
WAIT...
BY THE WAY, I KNOW IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO ASK, BUT...
WHAT IS IT?
A WOMAN HAS TO BE A VIRGIN IN ORDER TO BECOME MY BRIDE IN OTHER WORDS,
SHE CANNOT BE SULLIED BY ANYONE BEFORE OR AFTER THE WEDDING
THEREFORE, EVEN AFTER SHE'S LOST HER VIRGINITY,
SHE CANNOT ALLOW ANY OTHER MAN TO LAY HANDS ON HER UNTIL SHE FULFILLS HER DUTY AS MY BRIDE

SHE WILL LOSE HER POWER TO REMOVE MY IMPURITIES IF SHE'S MARRED BY ANOTHER MAN
UNTIL...
SHE FULFILLS HER DUTY AS YOUR BRIDE?
ONCE THE BRIDE SUCCEEDS IN COMPLETELY PURIFYING ME, SHE IS SENT BACK.
I DID NOT MENTION THIS?
MY BRIDES ARE CONSIDERED BLESSED, AND USED TO BE TAKEN IN BY LOCAL LORDS.
THIS IS... MY FIRST TIME HEARING ABOUT ALL THIS
WHY DID YOU KEEP SOMETHING SO IMPORTANT FROM ME UNTIL NOW?
THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY USUALLY EXPLAINS THESE MATTERS TO THE BRIDE BEFOREHAND..
DID YOU..

SO YOU CAME TO ME,
PREPARED FOR SOMETHING THAT SUBSTANTIAL...
COME HERE THINKING THIS WOULD LAST A LIFETIME?
WELL... YES.
I'm sorry?
HOWEVER, I COULD NEVER BIND A MORTAL TO ME FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE...
ONCE YOU HAVE FULFILLED YOUR DUTY, YOU WILL BE SET FREE AND RETURNED TO YOUR LIFE AS IT USED TO BE.
THAT IS THE RULE.

So this is tempo-rary...
HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?
PER USUAL, FOUR TO FIVE YEARS WOULD BE REQUIRED...
BUT WITH REGARD TO THE SEVERITY OF MY IMPURITIES, EVEN WITH YOUR POWER, IT MAY TAKE A WHILE LONGER THAN THAT.
I see. So that's what's expected of me.
I'm feeling kind of sad, for some reason...
HOWEVER,
IT ALSO DEPENDS ON YOUR PERSE-VERANCE.
AS I HAVE TOLD YOU BEFORE,
REMOVING MY IMPURI-TIES...
REQUIRES CONJUGAL INTECOURSE.

IT APPEARS I'VE MASTERED READING YOUR EXPRESSIONS.
HOW DARE HE, LOOKING SO SMUG
Though he forced me to become his wife,
Maybe he, too, wishes to work on the relationship between us.
I can sense his respect for me in the way he treats me.


ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU SOME-THING.
RIGHT THIS WAY.

THIS IS WHERE MY TRUE FORM IS KEPT.
IT WAS REFERRED TO BY A RATHER LONG NAME, TOO. SOMETHING SIMILAR TO "KURO-SHITSU NO."
I CAN'T QUITE REMEMBER
IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO TAKE IT OUT, FOR AGE AND IMPURITIES HAVE REDUCED IT TO A BRITTLE ARTIFACT.
LONG AGO, HOWEVER, IT WAS A MAGNIFICENT BOW WITH BLACK LACQUERED WOODEN LIMBS, DECORATED WITH SPLENDID JADES SET IN SILVER.
PEOPLE USED TO CALL IT "SHIROGANE NO YUMI."

* T/N "SHIROGANE NO YUMI" MEANS SILVER BOW, "KUROSHITSU" MEANS BLACK LACQUER.

I'VE SEEN MANY AGED ARTIFACTS...
AND NOT TO MENTION TSUKUMOGAMI, HERE IN KOHA-KUDOU-SAN'S HOUSE
Tsukumogami are spiritual representations of old artifacts
"Jades?" So that's why...
"Midori? That's a wonderful name"
*T/N MIDORI'S NAME IS DERIVED FROM 'HISUI' (JADE)
I can sense his fatigue,
and something like a dark, murky shadow looming around him
Although neither can conceal his unfading dignity and grace
SOMEDAY, WHEN YOU FEEL THE TIME IS RIGHT, PLEASE SHOW IT TO ME.

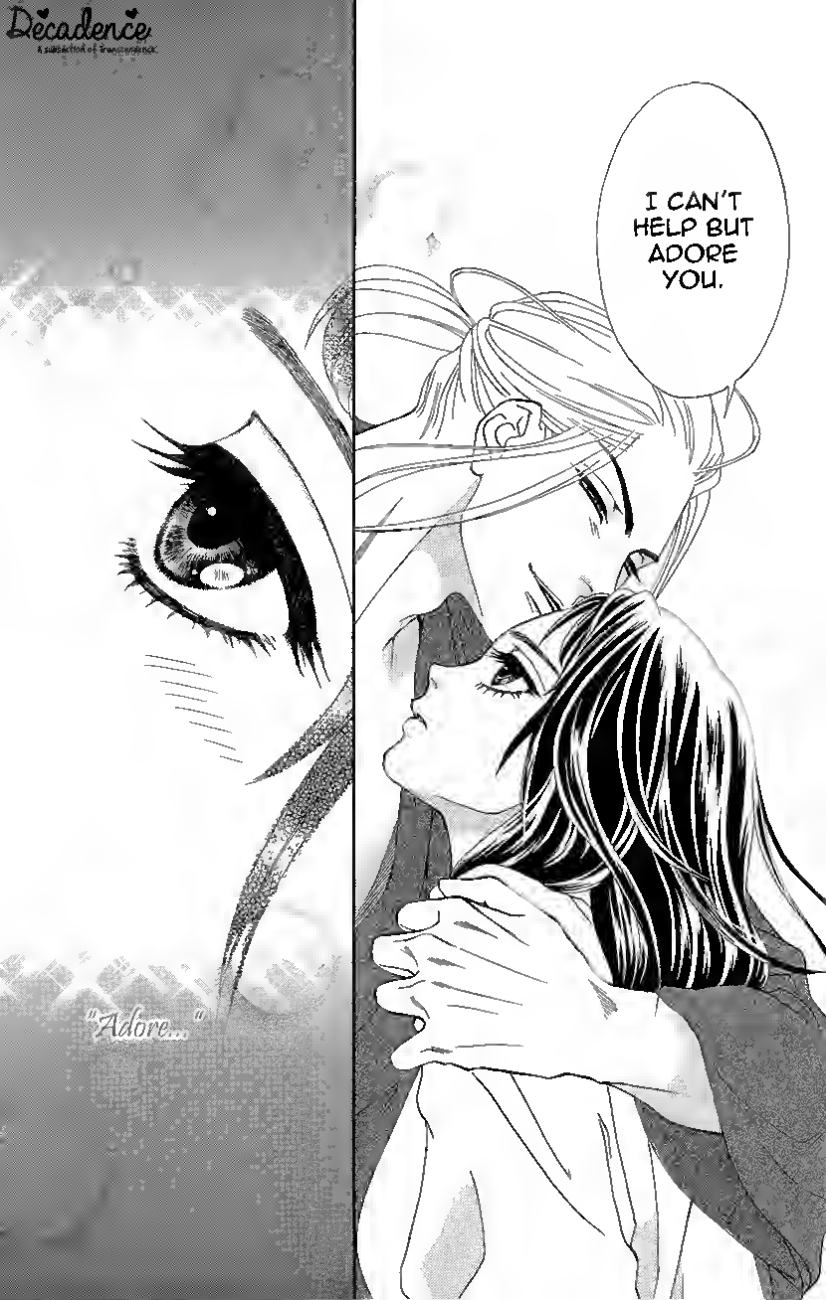
I'M SURE IT'S VERY BEAUTIFUL.
I CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT YOU.
YOU ARE...
ADORABLE

THIS IS YOURS.
Huh..?
THIS...
A green stone..
From the how!
A jade?!
ISN'T THIS
I WANT YOU TO CARRY THIS WITH YOU.
OH... BECAUSE I'M YOUR BRIDE?
NO, I HAVE NEVER GIVEN THIS TO ANYONE BEFORE.
I JUST... WISH FOR YOU TO HAVE IT, FOR SOME REASON.

BUT THIS IS SO PRECIOUS...
WHICH IS PRECISELY WHY I WANT YOU TO HAVE IT
IT IS PART OF ME.
ONLY... ME?
THROUGH THIS STONE, I CAN FEELYOUR WARMTH...
AND PULSE, TOO
Shock
AH...!

DO YOU STILL FEEL UNEASY ABOUT SHOWING ME YOUR BODY?
NO, I'M ALL RIGHT.
MY JADE IS SHINING BRIGHTLY...
AGAINST YOUR FAIR, POLISHED SKIN.
PLEASE, HELP YOURSELF. FEEL FREE TO STRIP ME.
OH, IS THAT SO?
So you don't want to do it
I WANT TO BE THE ONE TO DO IT, ACTUALLY.
Hold on
So hold on
"Strip," you say?
PULL
PULL
OR WOULD YOU PREFER I TAKE IT OFF MYSELF?

IT'S ALL RIGHT THIS IS JUST LIKE GOING TO THE DOCTOR'S
Or going to the spa for that matter
That's right Revealing this amount of skin is nothing
Go ahead!
&
UHM... I'M SORRY
I GUESS I'M QUITE NERVOUS AFTER ALL...
PFFT!
WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT YOU...
MY BRIDE,
chuckle
He's laughing?!


I CAN'T HELP BUT ADORE YOU.
"Adore..."

Wouldn't it be Akari who comes to mind?
WHEN YOU IMAGINE SOMEONE SWEET..
HMM?
BUT...
UHM, I'M SO RESERVED...
PERSONALITY-WISE, I'M NOT ALL THAT SWEET.
AND MY LOOKS ARE PRETTY ORDINARY.
BUT YOU ARE SWEET.
I KNOW NOT WHOM YOU ARE COMPARING YOURSELF TO,
BUT KNOW THAT, NO MATTER HOW CHARMING OTHER WOMEN MAY BE,
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE I CARE ABOUT.

I ADORE THOSE CLEAR EYES OF YOURS THAT BEHOLD US, SPIRITS.
I FEEL AT EASE WHEN I GAZE INTO THEM. THEY REFLECT YOUR HONORABLE HEART.
YOU MAY BE RESERVED, YOU HARBOR STRONG EMOTIONS NONETHELESS.
ARE YOU NOT MY BRIDE?
THERE'S KINDNESS, BRINGING FORTH YOUR DESIRE TO PROTECT KOHAKUDOU..
AND INNOCENCE, FROM WHICH HAS SPRUNG YOUR DECISION TO MARRY ME
TO ME, YOU ARE ANYTHING BUT ORDINARY.

I ADORE YOU FOR ALL OF THEM.
I...
I THOUGHT I WAS MERELY HERE TO CLEANSE YOUR IMPURITIES.
I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE EXTENT OF MY EXISTENCE TO YOU.
YOU CAME HERE IN ORDER TO MARRY ME.

HOW COULD I NOT FIND THAT ENDEARING?
RATHER THAN ACT OUT OF A SENSE OF RESPONSI-BILITY,
YOU CAME HERE FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF US BECOMING HUSBAND AND WIFE,
PRE-PARED TO BE BOUND TO ME IN A LIFELONG COMMIT-MENT
What should I do..?
He can be forceful to the point that it scares me,
but there's also this soft, gentle side to him
Who would've thought.
What can I do?
I find so much happiness...
in being cherished by him.

ARE YOU AFRAID?
NO...
THERE'S NO NEED TO ACT SO TOUGH
I'd feel so happy, just because
he tells me he adores me.

I'm a bit scared, but...
that's merely because this is a sensation unknown to me until now
GASP
I WON'T STOP,
THOUGH I WILL BE GENTLE
PANT
PANT
UNLIKE HIS USUAL KISSES,
THESE FEEL SO INTENSE
YOU...
I'M GETTING DIZZY...

I DID NOT KNOW YOU WERE HIDING SUCH A RAVISHING BODY.
THAT'S NOT TRUE
BUT YOU ARE..
YOUR FAIR SKIN,
Don't cover yourself
FULL BREASTS,
AND SMALL, SUPPLE WAIST...
STOP, DON'T SAY ANY MORE

Gently,
WHY NOT?
IT'S EMBARRASSING...
BUT WE ARE ABOUT TO DO SOMETHING MUCH WORSE THAN THAT.
yet unwaveringly,
Gasp
He opened me up

When my body stiffened in response to this unfamiliar sensation
HA
IT'S ALL RIGHT
he held me in his arms,
pant
pant
IT'S ALL RIGHT
and put me at ease
JUST LIKE THIS
Little by little...
time,
and time again...
THE JADE...
IS TRANSMITTING YOUR HEAT TO ME
MIDORI...

Decadence
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filled
with such
tenderness.

End of Chapter 3

MITSUYOKON

Tsukumogami No Yomegoryou

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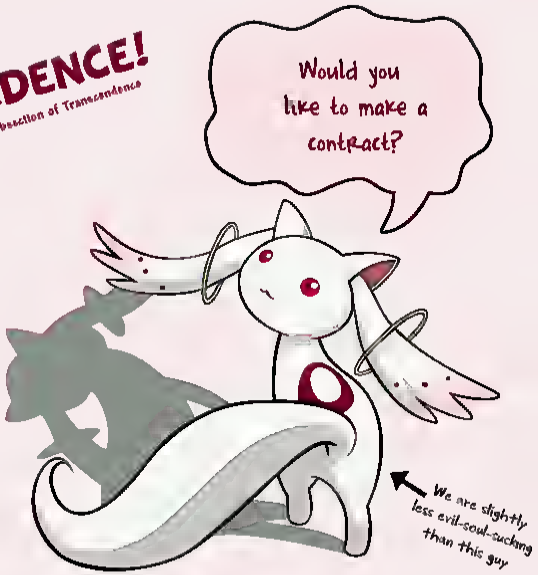

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